

before Memorial Day recess, 2006. I look forward to working with Senator BOXER on scheduling a date and filling out the witness list.

SECURITY CONTRACTOR PRACTICES IN IRAQ

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today, to discuss a matter of serious concern. On December 9, The Washington Post reported that the Department of Defense is investigating a video posted on an Aegis-employee affiliated Web site which contains scenes of violence and shooting against Iraqi civilians.

An estimated 25,000 private security contractors are currently working in Iraq, earning anywhere from \$550 to \$1,500 a day. Many of them are doing their best to help maintain security for the reconstruction of Iraq. However, if the events displayed in the video are accurate, the actions of these few contractors put our troops at tremendous risk. The video depicts the back window of a PSD, personal security detail, vehicle. In the video you can hear a machine gun being fired at cars which are clearly more than 50 meters behind the vehicle. The cars drift off the road after many shots, leaving one to assume the driver has been shot dead. During the entire video, the Elvis Presley song "Mystery Train" plays in the background.

This behavior is offensive. The actions of the individuals in the video put our troops at risk because such incendiary behavior only increases hatred towards Americans. Whether or not we agree with the troops' presence in Iraq, we all agree that the safety of our troops is paramount. Our troops in Iraq who wear uniforms are instant targets for retaliatory violence.

The U.S. service men and women who deploy to Iraq serve because of a sense of selfless service and duty. As members of Congress, it is our duty to conduct oversight into the questionable behavior of the private security contractors. While our troops continue to be deployed to Iraq and the security situation remains fragile at best, it is in our best interest to make sure civilian-contractors do not exacerbate the situation any further.

Therefore, I will be seeking a congressional inquiry into the operations and rules of engagement granted to private security contractors currently operating in Iraq. I will also recommend a review of the contract awarded to Aegis Specialist Risk Management. If these events are happening, we must stop them. We must take action so that our troops and the Iraqi people know that gratuitous violence on the part of the people we deploy or employ will not be tolerated.

INCLUSION OF IDAHO AND MONTANA IN THE RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise in support of this bill to expand the Radi-

ation Exposure Compensation Act, RECA, to include the States of Idaho and Montana. I am an original cosponsor of the legislation being introduced by Senator CRAPO.

The National Academy of Sciences, NAS, recognizes that citizens affected by fallout from atomic bomb testing in Nevada were not only the citizens of that State or Utah, but also citizens to the north, and east, and throughout much of the world. This bill, consistent studies showing that parts of Idaho and Montana were among the most affected, expands RECA geographically to include these two States.

My colleagues and I are in the business of making Idahoans eligible for RECA compensation as expeditiously as possible. Studies that take years will simply not do for citizens who would otherwise be eligible if they lived on the other side of a State line.

The NAS recommended that RECA should be overhauled, and I will make sure this happens. In the meantime, those Idahoans and Montanans who qualify for compensation today should be made eligible immediately.

BURMA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I will discuss the disturbing situation in Burma.

I have consistently stressed my deep concerns regarding the repressive military junta in Burma that continues to commit severe human rights violations against the Burmese people. Despite consistent calls to halt abuses by the Burmese military such as rape, harsh political repression, torture, extrajudicial executions, forced labor, and human trafficking, the SPDC fails to address these egregious violations and permits violations to continue with impunity.

However, I am encouraged by ASEAN's rejuvenated efforts to hold Burma to long-promised democratic reforms. ASEAN's resolute calls for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of NLD and more than 1,100 political prisoners, and for real democratic reform, are vital to legitimate progress in Burma and regional stability and values. ASEAN has long pushed for these goals and its recent announcement that it will send an envoy to evaluate Burma's progress in democratic reform is an important step toward accountability.

It is far past time for the international community to begin a dialogue on Burma. I welcome the unanimous decision by the United Nations Security Council to discuss the situation there. The September 2005 report produced by Nobel Prize laureate Desmond Tutu and former Czech President Vaclav Havel provided a solid basis for these discussions. Burma's military junta has long prevented United Nations envoys from visiting, and I look forward to the international community engaging in a serious discussion of the situation there.

Those demanding real reform in Burma must not relent. The SPDC must take immediate steps to release Aung Sang Suu Kyi and other political prisoners and to create a broad-based democratic government that respects human rights and the rule of law.

WORK OUTAGE AT CALLAWAY NUCLEAR PLANT

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise to honor approximately 3,000 permanent and supplemental workers, who recently set a new world time record while conducting a safe and successful work outage on AmerenUE's Callaway Nuclear Plant. The Callaway Plant is located in my home State of Missouri and provides permanent jobs to more than 1,000 people. Since 1984, Callaway has generated an average of 8.9 billion kilowatthours of electricity per year—equal to the amount used annually by more than 750,000 average households.

The Callaway Plant is owned and operated by AmerenUE, a subsidiary of Ameren Corporation, which provides energy services to about 2.3 million electric customers in Missouri and Illinois. Callaway, along with 102 other nuclear powerplants in the United States, is a critical component of our Nation's energy mix, providing low-cost, reliable, and clean energy from an abundant fuel source.

Approximately every 18 months nuclear plants must be shut down for refueling, during which time the employees perform literally thousands of maintenance activities, modifications, and tests. In Callaway's case, the plant supplies nearly a quarter of Ameren's electricity production, thus it is critical that the work be done in a safe and timely manner so the plant can be brought back online as soon as possible.

The recent Callaway Plant outage was the most complex in its history, as it included not only refueling and the usual maintenance activities, but also replacement of four massive steam generators, which measure 70 feet tall and weigh 400 tons each, as well as main turbine rotors. The Callaway team set a new world record for such outages, accomplishing their work in 63 days and 13 hours, beating the previous record of 64 days and 17 hours. The combination of the new generators and rotors are expected to add about 60 megawatts of additional generating capacity to the plant using the same amount of fuel.

This summer Congress passed an energy bill, which recognizes the tremendous need for increasing our supply of clean energy while reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy. The high-quality work of the Callaway employees plays a major role in carrying out the objectives of this important legislation. By not only completing the outage in a safe and timely